

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1077

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to recognize the importance of allowing
alternatives to dissection in Tennessee schools.

WHEREAS, educational curricula should foster environmental stewardship and compassion for life; dissection encourages neither, as animal life is devalued and treated as expendable; and

WHEREAS, dissection alienates many compassionate students from life science; as a result, many bright students choose careers in other fields; and

WHEREAS, many published articles attest to the fact that students using humane alternatives learn equally well or better than students dissecting/vivisecting animals; and

WHEREAS, dissection rarely involves more than observation and memorization; students are not challenged with forming hypotheses or collecting and interpreting data; and

WHEREAS, most dissected animals are caught in the wild, which may contribute to serious worldwide declines in many animal populations, (e.g. frogs and sharks); and

WHEREAS, animals suffer during capture, handling, transport, and killing for dissection; and

WHEREAS, in a cost comparison of buying dead animals for dissection compared with buying humane alternatives, a hypothetical school, over a three-year period, can save between \$2,785 to \$7,510 using cat alternatives, \$557 to \$2,197 on fetal pig alternatives, and \$174 to \$1,423 by utilizing bullfrog alternatives; and

WHEREAS, cost effectiveness in education is important to each local school system budget; and

WHEREAS, students are exposed to the well known carcinogen, formaldehyde, when dissecting animals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Neal Barnard, M.D., has stated, "The student who refuses to participate in an activity which is or appears to be cruel should be encouraged, rather than discouraged. Compassion is far more difficult to teach than anatomy"; and

WHEREAS, the 1933 National P.T.A. Congress stated, "Children trained to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more just, kind, and considerate in their relations with others. Character training along these lines will result in men and women of broader sympathies, more humane, more law-abiding, in every respect more valuable citizens"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the importance of allowing students to choose not to perform vivisection, dissection, or other exercises on animals that may cause the animals pain, distress, injury, death, or other harm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge every school system to provide an alternative educational exercise to students who do not want to perform the animal-based activity based on their moral, religious, ethical, or cultural beliefs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also recognize the cost effective benefits of using humane alternatives as every school system pursues fiscal efficiency within its budgetary process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.